

West Park Levy

County Durham Foundation is responsible for collection of the levy and contacts all purchasers as soon as they are informed of completion to explain how the levy works and what it may be used for. Payment is in arrears by direct debit collected on 01 February annually.

Further explanation of the levy is given below:

The following has been taken from the West Park Agreement and are details of activities to be funded by the West Park Levy.

In order to provide enhanced maintenance and educational initiatives at West Park the levy raised from local private housing will enable the West Park Local Steering Group, to-

1. Contribute to employing staff to provide a Countryside Rangers Service aimed at carrying out the necessary functions that will make the Park a valued asset to the local community.
2. Enable the staff to respond to the management plan drawn up by the steering group.

Specifically;

- a) Help receive formal and informal groups in order to provide guidance and training in how to use and enjoy the park.
- b) Help volunteer groups establish wildlife-monitoring regimes for the park.
- c) Enhance the 6.43 hectares of wildflower meadows.
- d) Enhance the wetland and woodland features of the park.
- e) Help the Darlington Borough Council stage a series of events aimed at increasing the use of the park and raising awareness of countryside issues.
- f) Help facilitate the involvement and training of local volunteers who come forward wishing to help with many aspects of the above.
- g) Provide funds that will help draw down additional funding for capital and revenue schemes that may be needed to help maintain and improve the park in the future.

The mechanisms the residents have to influence the delivery

Decisions on spend will be determined by a local steering committee which includes local residents and key stakeholders.

Accountability for the money

Will be the responsibility of County Durham Foundation (CDF). Decisions on spend will be determined by the Committee, who will have to adhere to CDF's strict conflict and declaration of interests policy. Full details of County Durham Foundation can be found by visiting the website at www.countydurhamfoundation.co.uk